

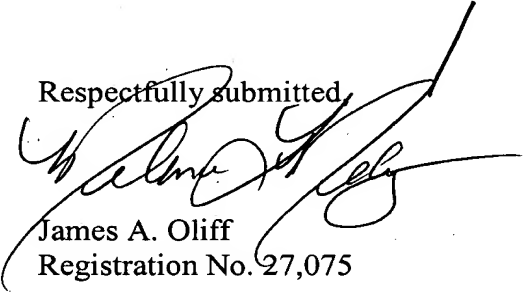
reference applied against claims 2-4 cannot properly be combined with Akerblom for the reasons discussed in the Amendment filed March 20, 2003. The Examiners indicated that they would need to further consider this argument.

In preparing for the interview, an inadvertent error in claim 15 was noticed. In particular, claim 15 inadvertently recites "a material expansion" rather than "a natural expansion," as recited in original claim 1. The above amendment corrects this inadvertent error.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above and in the March 20, 2003 Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be necessary in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Melanie L. Mealy  
Registration No. 40,085

JAO:MLM/jam

Date: April 30, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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